

Message Text

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ACTION AGR-20

INFO OCT-01 ARA-16 ADP-00 AID-20 EB-11 NSC-10 RSC-01

CIEP-02 TRSE-00 SS-15 STR-08 OMB-01 CEA-02 CIAE-00

COME-00 FRB-02 INR-10 NSAE-00 XMB-07 OPIC-12 LAB-06

SIL-01 DODE-00 PA-03 PRS-01 IGA-02 L-03 SSO-00 NSCE-00

USIE-00 INRE-00 RSR-01 /155 W
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O 202143Z AUG 73

FM AMEMBASSY BOGOTA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 9012

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: EAGR

PASS USDA/EMS FOR MEAD

PASS USDA/FAS FOR DOBBINS

SUBJECT: VISIT OF IDEMA MANAGER TO WASHINGTON

REF: (A)DOBBINS-STARKEY TELECON 8/14;

(B) STATE 146655; (C) BOGOTA 5975

1. GUILLERMO VELEZ, IDEMA MANAGER, HAS RESCHEDULED TRIP TO WASHINGTON TO DISCUSS GRAIN AND PL-480 SITUATION WITH HIGH LEVEL USG OFFICIALS FOR AUGUST 26. HE WILL BE AVAILABLE AS NECESSARY FOR MEETINGS WITH USDA, STATE AND AID OFFICIALS ON MONDAY, AUGUST 27 AND

THURSDAY, AUGUST 30. HE HAS ALREADY SCHEDULED MEETINGS WITH BID ON AUGUST 28 AND WITH FREIGHT COMPANIES AND MARKET NEWS SERVICES ON THE 29TH. FAS /DOBBINS HAS BEEN CONTACTED REGARDING

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ARRANGEMENTS.

2. VELEZ UNDERSTANDS THAT REVIEW OF PL-480 SITUATION FOR THE REMAINDER OF FY 1974 HAS NOW BEEN POSTPONED UNTIL MID-SEPTEMBER. HOWEVER, HE FEELS TRIP WOULD BE USEFUL AT THIS TIME TO DISCUSS PRESENT SITUATION, PROVIDE IN MORE DETAIL TO U.S. POLICY MAKERS ON THE CURRENT FOOD/ POLITICAL SITUATION IN COLOMBIA AND TO CLARIFY OPERATING QUESTIONS RE THE FY 1973 PL-480 AGREEMENT. IN ADDITION HE INDICATED THAT TRIP COULD NO LONGER BE POSTPONED AS GOVERNMENTAL DECREE AUTHORIZING HIM TO TRAVEL TO THE U.S. HAS NOW BEEN PUBLISHED.

3. VELEZ HAS REQUESTED THAT AGATT ACCOMPANY HIM TO WASHINGTON FOR MEETINGS WITH USG AND INDUSTRY OFFICIALS, STRESSING THAT THIS WOULD BE GREAT ASSISTANCE TO HIM PERSONALLY AND WOULD HELP TO IMPROVE RELATIONS BETWEEN IDEMA AND COMMERCIAL AND GOVERNMENTAL ENTITIES IN THE U.S.

HE ALSO POINTED OUT THAT IDEMA IS THE LARGEST COLOMBIAN IMPORTER OF U.S. AGRICULTURAL PRODUCTS AND SUGGESTED THAT SINCE COLOMBIA WOULD NEED TO IMPORT A WIDE VARIETY OF THESE PRODUCTS THIS YEAR DUE TO DOMESTIC PRODUCTION SHORTFALLS AGATT COULD BE USEFUL IN FACILITATING CONTACTS WITH EXPORTER AND TRADE REPRESENTATIVES. MINAG VALLEJO ALSO EXPRESSED HOPE THAT AGATT WOULD BE ABLE TO ACCOMPANY VELEZ.

4. EMBASSY FEELS THAT IT WOULD BE USEFUL FOR AGATT TO ACCOMPANY VELEZ. COLOMBIA IN RECENT YEARS AND AS A RESULT OF CONSIDERABLE MARKET DEVELOPMENT, EFFORT HAS COME TO LOOK TO THE U.S. AS A DEPENDABLE SUPPLIER OF AGRICULTURAL COMMODITIES. THIS RELATIONSHIP HAS COME UNDER INCREASING STRAIN IN THE LAST MONTHS DUE TO THE TIGHT WORLD AND U.S. SUPPLY SITUATION CAPPED BY THE U.S. DECISION TO IMPOSE TEMPORARY EXPORT CONTROLS. EMBASSY BELIEVES THAT PRESENCE AND ASSISTANCE OF AGATT DURING WASHINGTON MEETINGS WOULD BE VALUABLE AS MEANS OF ENSURING FULLEST UNDERSTANDING OF THIS SITUATION BY VELEZ AND ADDITIONALLY WOULD FURTHER THE ALREADY GOOD PERSONAL WORKING RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN AGATT AND VELEZ.

5. IN LIGHT OF ABOVE EMBASSY RECOMMENDS WASHINGTON APPROVAL FOR AGATT TO ACCOMPANY VELEZ DURING AUGUST 26-30 TRIP AND REQUESTS THAT APPROPRIATE AUTHORIZATION BE CABLED SOONEST.

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Disposition Authority: morefirh
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